# 2011 Colorado Rapids TECHNICAL STAFF



### TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



## PAUL BRAVO TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

On January 9, 2009, the Rapids second all-time leading scorer, Paul Bravo, was named the team's Technical Director. Bravo joined the Rapids having served as the Director of Soccer with the LA Galaxy from 2007-2008.

Bravo oversees the club's domestic and international scouting, the Rapids Academy and supports the Rapids coaching staff in first team operations.

Bravo returns to the Rapids after one of the most successful playing careers in the team's 14-year history. As a forward for the Rapids from 1997-2001, he helped lead Colorado to the 1997 MLS Cup and was the first player in Rapids history to record 100 points. With 39 career goals with the Rapids, he still sits atop the record books as Colorado's all-time leading scorer. On July 4, 2003, the three-time MLS All Star was one of two players to be the first-ever inductees into the Rapids "Gallery of Honor".

Following his six-year MLS career that saw him play with the San Jose Clash in 1996 and the Rapids, Bravo moved directly into coaching, serving as an assistant coach with Colorado from 2002-2003.

After his time with the Rapids, Bravo served as an assistant coach at UCLA for the 2004 and 2005 seasons, serving under Jorge Salcedo, helping the Bruins to two Pac-10 Championships and a two-year record of 26-9-5. During his two years in Westwood, Bravo recruited a number of players who have gone on to successful careers in MLS and Europe, as well as with the U.S. National Team, including Jonathan Bornstein, Benny Feilhaber, Kamani Hill, Marvell Wynne, Sal Zizzo and more.

Originally hired as an assistant coach under Frank Yallop with the LA Galaxy in June 2006, Bravo was elevated to the title of Director of Soccer on August 24, 2007.

Bravo finished his MLS playing career with 52 goals and 27 assists. Prior to his major league career, he played for the San Francisco Bay Blackhawks from 1991-94 and captured the 1991 APSL Championship with the club. In 1994, he also played with the San Francisco Greek-Americans, leading them to the U.S. Open Cup championship.

Bravo made four appearances for the U.S. National Team from 1994-1999, scoring one goal and registering an assist. Bravo made his National Team debut on December 11, 1994, replacing Mike Burns for the final eight minutes of a 1-1 draw with Honduras. Nearly five years late, Bravo earned his first career start for the U.S. on July 30, 1999 in a 2-0 win over Germany at the 1999 FIFA Confederations Cup in Mexico. Four days later, on August 3, Bravo scored his first goal for the U.S., scoring the game-winner in the 28th minute of a 2-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the 3rd place game of that same fourmament

While in college, Bravo led Santa Clara University to the 1989 NCAA Co-Championship, finishing his Broncos career with 26 goals and 13 assists. He earned a degree in Political Science from Santa Clara in 1993.

Bravo has also worked as a coach for the Under-18 Men's U.S. National Team and holds a USSF "A" Coaching License.



#### **HEAD COACH**



### GARY SMITH

Gary Smith was introduced as the sixth head coach in Colorado Rapids history on November 11, 2008.

Smith assumed the head coach position having served as the Rapids' interim head coach during the club's final 11 matches of the 2008 season

In less than three seasons under his leadership, Smith has led the Rapids to the top of the league culminating with the club's first-ever championship.

The Rapids had a season to remember on their way to winning the 2010 MLS Cup ending the regular season with a record of 12-8-10, 46 points- which was the second most in team history — and in the process clinching their first playoff berth since 2006.

Colorado was the second highest scoring team in MLS in 2010 with 44 goals and for a second consecutive season finished with a club-best home record of 8-2-5. The Rapids were the first team in MLS history to win four consecutive home games by a margin of three or more goals and their 10 game home unbeaten streak from May 29-October 2 was the third longest in franchise history.

In his first full season as head coach in 2009, the Rapids saw many successes as the club posted a then best-ever home record at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, set a new franchise best eight-game unbeaten streak and achieved their highest point total since 2006.

Originally joining the Rapids' organization in February 2008 as an assistant coach, Smith brought with him 10 years of experience as a professional player and full-time coach in the English FA.

A UEFA "A" badge holder, Smith began his coaching career with Wimbledon F.C. as a senior level coach. In 2004, he became the assistant first team coach for the Wycombe Wanderers. Following the resignation of Wycombe manager Tony Adams, Smith filled the role as interim head coach leading the club to a 4-0 record under his guidance.

Smith moved to the position of reserve team coach for Watford F.C in 2005. During his first season with the club, the First Team was promoted to the Premiership.

Throughout 2007, Smith served as a scout for the Rapids' partner club Arsenal F.C in Spain.

As a professional player, Smith spent four years with Fulham, two years with Barnet F.C. and one year with Colchester United before injuries forced him into a premature retirement.

Smith and partner Emma Penn reside in Stapleton with their three children, Millie and twins Sonny and Summer

#### **SMITH'S HEAD COACHING RECORD**

REGULAR					SEASON	<u>PLAYOFFS</u>					
YEAR TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	OT	PTS	W	L	Т	PCT	OT.
2008 Colorado	5	4	2	.545	0-0-0	17	-	-	-		
2009 Colorado	10	10	10	.500	0-0-0	40	0	0	0		0-0-0
2010 Colorado	12	8	10	.567	0-0-0	46	3	0	1	.875	0-0-0
TOTAL	27	22	22	.535	0-0-0	103	3	0	1	.875	1-0-1

#### SMITH'S ALL-TIME HEAD COACHING RECORD, TEAM-BY-TEAM

REGULAR			SEASON					PLAYOFFS					
TEAM	W	L	Т	PCT	OT	PTS	W	L	Т	PCT	OT		
Chicago	1	2	2	.400	0-0-0	5	-	-	-				
Chivas USA	4	1	0	.800	0-0-0	12	-	-	-				
Colorado	0	0	0		0-0-0	-	-	-	-				
Columbus 1		2	1	.375	0-0-0	4	1	0	1	.750	0-0-1		
D.C. United	2	3	0	.400	0-0-0	6	-	-	-				
Dallas	2	1	3	.583	0-0-0	9	1	0	0	1.000	1-0-0		
Houston	2	2	1	.500	0-0-0	7	-	-	-				
Kansas City	2	1	2	.600	0-0-0	8	-	-	-				
Los Angeles	2	2	1	.500	0-0-0	7	-	-	-				
New England	2	0	3	.700	0-0-0	9	-	-	-				
New York	3	1	1	.700	0-0-0	10	-	-	-				
Philadelphia	1	0	1	.750	0-0-0	4	-	-	-				
Real Salt Lake	1	2	4	.429	0-0-0	7	-	-	-				
San Jose	1	1	2	.500	0-0-0	5	1	0	0	1.000	0-0-0		
Seattle	1	2	1	.375	0-0-0	4	-	-	-				
Toronto FC	2	2	0	.500	0-0-0	6	-	-	-				
TOTAL	27	22	22	.535	0-0-0	103	3	0	1	.875	1-0-1		

### **COACHING STAFF**



## STEVE GUPPY ASSISTANT COACH

Steve Guppy begins his third season with Colorado after joining the MLS coaching ranks on January 26, 2009.

Guppy holds over 15 years of professional experience in the highest levels of competitive soccer in Europe and North America.

A native of Winchester, England, Guppy's career includes stints with Southampton (1989), Wycombe Wanderers (1989-94, 2004-05), Newcastle United (1994), Port Vale (1994-97), Leicester City (1997-2000), and Celtic F.C. (2001-04).

Guppy made his MLS debut with a five-game stint with D.C. United during the 2005 season. He then returned

to the English leagues in 2006-07 with Stevenage Borough F.C. In 2008, Guppy spent three months training with Aston Villa, as he prepared for the USL-1 season where he was a player/assistant coach for the Bochester Bhinos.

A crowning moment in his storied playing career was when Guppy earned a national team cap, playing the entire match for England on October 10, 1999 in a 2-1 victory against Belgium.

Guppy and partner Rhian reside in Stapleton with their daughter Bailey.

### **COACHING STAFF**



## BRETT JACOBS ASSISTANT COACH

Brett Jacobs enters his fourth season with the Rapids after joining the club in November 2007.

As a professional coach, he carries 17 years domestic and international experience.

Jacobs moves into a new role in 2011 being promoted exclusively to a First Team coaching position with the Technical Staff

He originally joined the club serving as Assistant Director and later Director of Coaching for the Rapids Academy. During that time his responsibilities also included assisting head coach Gary Smith and Fernando Clavijo with the First Team duties.

Jacobs comes to Colorado having previous served as the Director of Coaching for the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association from 2005 to 2007. During his tenure in Michigan, he also worked as the First Team Coach for the Michigan Bucks of the United Soccer Leagues, PDL- winning a national championship in 2006 and finishing as national finalists in 2007.

Prior to his tenure in Michigan, Jacobs was one of the first American coaches to work in the English FA Academy system coaching full-time for London's Wimbledon Football Club from 2002-2004. He also spent significant time working with the Portuguese under 19 National team during UEFA qualifying in 2003.

He has previous experience as a Coaching Director for the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association from 1999-2002 and working in the United Soccer Leagues as a Player/Coach for the Cape Cod Crusaders/Boston Bulldogs of Mass Premiere Soccer Inc. from 1996-2001.

Jacobs began his career as an Assistant Coach for the University of West Florida from 1994-1996 and also served as the Director of Coaching for the Pensacola Soccer Complex which served as one of the main training destinations for Major League Soccer, US Soccer and the German DFB.

A graduate of the University of Alabama in Telecommunications, Jacobs is a USSF A licensed coach, holds the UEFA B and is currently taking the UEFA A license through the English Football Association. His playing experience spans over a decade and a half with stops in Ryman Premier and Dr. Marten professional leagues in London England, USL Division II, USISL Premiere Development League and NCAA Division I at the University of South Alabama.

Brett and his wife Jennifer live in Denver with their sons Finn and Jett

### **COACHING STAFF**



DAVID KRAMER
GOALKEEPING COACH

David Kramer returns to the Rapids for a fourth season having joined the Colorado technical staff in June 2008.

Under his direction, the Rapids have improved each season in goals allowed and goalkeepers Matt Pickens (U.S.) and Steward Ceus (Haiti) have flourished earning National Team call-ups. In 2010, Pickens recorded career-highs in games played, wins and goals against average as well as registering two postseason shutouts during the Rapids 2010 MLS Cup championship run, tying the Rapids single-season playoff record.

Throughout his seven-year MLS career with Los Angeles, San Jose, and Colorado, he appeared in 106 matches, with 98 starts, and posted 15 shutouts. Kramer played in 42 games for the Rapids from 2000-2002, including eight playoff matches.

Kramer's professional career began with the Monterey Bay Jaguars in 1995, helping team to USISL Western Division championship. He also played with the Colorado Foxes of the A-League in 1997.

The USSF "A" license holder earned his degree in industrial technology at Fresno State, where he played nearly every minute of four-year career. Kramer earned first-team All-America honors in 1994 and was also named the National Goalkeeper of the Year. A fourtime all-conference and two-time All-Far West selection, he led the Bulldogs to a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation championship in 1994 and set a school record with a 0.46 goals against average.

A Cupertino, California native, David and his wife Jennifer have two children, son Cullen and daughter Finley.



JOHN IRELAND FITNESS COACH

John Ireland returns for a seventh season with the Rapids being named the club's Fitness Coach in February 2010. Ireland served in a similar capacity with the club during the 2000-2004 seasons.

As Fitness Coach, Ireland looks after all aspects of the exercise functions performed by the Rapids players including: performance testing, sport specific training, regeneration and nutrition.

Under his care, the Rapids won their first MLS Cup championship in 2010.  $\,$ 

Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, he received a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Physical Education

and Sport Science from England's Loughborough University, regarded as one of the top sport-science teaching universities in the world.

Ireland's background includes working with English Football League Championship side Derby County Football Club, the LA Galaxy, the Mexican National Ski Team "Alpine" project, and the Colorado Mammoth, where he was a staff member during their 2006 National Lacrosse League World Championship.

John and his wife Tammy have two children lain and Macey.

#### SUPPORT STAFF



## CARLOS GARCIA

Carlos Garcia returns to the Colorado Rapids for his tenth season with the team after spending the previous six years working for the Los Angeles Galaxy. Garcia, who became a United States citizen in 1986 after moving to Los Angeles from his native Guatemala, holds a U.S.S.F. "B" Coaching License and most recently completed the course for his U.S.S.F. "A" Coaching License.

In addition to his duties as an equipment manager in Los Angeles, Garcia also coached boys aged 5-14, a pursuit that he currently continues in Colorado. Garcia and his wife, Josefa, live in Denver and have two daughters, Dulce and Elaine Victoria, and one son, Enrique Bosco Garcia.



## ERIK CARLSON TEAM ADMINISTRATOR

This year will mark Erik Carlson's sixth season with the Rapids organization. He works closely with the coaching staff and players on a daily basis in many areas of team operations and player administration.

Previously Carlson worked for the U.S. Soccer Federation, where he served as a Team Coordinator for four years, primarily with the U.S. Under-20 Men's National Team. During his time with U.S. Soccer, Carlson led Youth National Teams to training camps and tournaments around the world, including the FIFA World Youth Championships in 2003 (United Arab Emirates) and 2005 (Netherlands). Prior to his tenure with U.S. Soccer, Carlson spent two years in the Czech Republic where he taught English as a Second Language at a public high school in Prague.

Carlson is a graduate of North Park University in Chicago, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Spanish. He currently resides in Denver.

#### DR.WAYNE GERSOFF

**TEAM PHYSICIAN** 

Dr. Wayne Gersoff, entering his 16th season with the Rapids, began his medical career at Yale University, followed by a fellowship in Sports Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. His extensive experience in Sports Medicine has included working as a team physician for University of Colorado athletes, as well

as world-class athletes with the US Soccer, USA World Hockey and U.S. Ski Jumping teams. He also has served as Team Physician for the Denver Dynamite, Colorado Rangers, Colorado Comets, Colorado Foxes, and Colorado Rockies.

#### SUPPORT STAFF



# JAIME ROJAS, ATC HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER

Jaime Rojas enters his third season with the Rapids and his seventh in MLS having served in the same capacity with the Miami Fusion from 1998-2001.

Rojas worked the previous seven years as the Director of ATI Physical Therapy in Chicago before coming to Colorado.

Prior to his time in Major League Soccer, Rojas was the head athletic trainer for the Florida International University men's soccer team. He has also worked with the Florida Marlins, the U.S. Soccer Federation and the Men's and Women's U.S. National Soccer Teams. During the 1998 and 1999 off-seasons, Rojas joined the U.S. Pro-40 Select (MLS developmental team) on its winter tours, traveling to England and Portugal.

Rojas earned bachelor and master degrees from Florida International University. He is a decorated veteran of the Gulf War, where he served as a U.S. Army helicopter crew chief. He received his honorable discharge in 1991.

In 2010, Rojas was the sole Athletic Trainer presenting at the Soccer Industry Medical Symposium attended by the leading doctors, physical therapists, and athletic trainers working within the sport of soccer.

A Chicago native, Jaime and his wife Jana celebrated the birth of their daughter Elysa in February 2010.



# KRISTIN DOUHAN, MED, ATC, CSCS ASSISTANT ATHLETIC TRAINER

Kristen Douhan enters her first year full-time with the Rapids having served as volunteer Athletic Trainer with the club the past two seasons.

Douhan has a diverse background in sports medicine and athletics coming to the Rapids from Howard Head Sports Medicine Center. She has also worked as an athletic trainer for USA Rugby the past three years.

Kristen has also served as the Medical Director for the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship First & Second Rounds in 2004, 2006 and 2011.

Douhan completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Colorado State University. She earned her Athletic Training Certification in 2001 and, shortly after, earned her Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist credentials and is a member of both the NCSA and NATA.